4. The next census (planned for November) of tigers and habitat to be done using the new methodology, suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests and endorsed by the Tiger Task Force. Independent audit report also be to presented to Parliament in 6 months, which will rate state performance on different criteria.

5. The plan for relocation of villages from key tiger habitats to be finalized within one year, with its financial and logistical implications and completed with 2-3 years.

6. The plan for coexistence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.

7. The benefits of tourism to be shared with local communities using the recommendations of the Task Force.

Change of climates

†3421. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the climate of the country is changing now a days;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this change of climate, forests and lives of people and animals living in the forests are likely to be affected; and

(d) if so, the facts of the matter and the steps being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per information made available by the Indian Meteorological Department, the surface air temperature over the Indian subcontinent show a slightly warming trend by about 0.4 C during the past 100 years. This warming trend is however

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

not uniform either in time or space. Some seasons do not exhibit as much warming trend as the others, and some regions of the country show lesser warming trend. However, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Third Assessment Report in 2001 has projected that globally averaged surface temperature would rise by 1.4 C to 5.8 C during 1990—2100 in the most tropical and subtropical regions.

(b) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol address the issues related to climate change. India is a Party to both these agreements and is actively participating in Climate Change discussions. India has taken measures to mitigate climate chage by encouraging renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, afforestation programmes and promoting projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases.

(c) and (d) The project climate change will affect various ecosystems including forests and lives of people and animals living in the forests only on a long term basis. In the short term, the effect of global climate change on forests, wildlife and people living close to forests is likely to be insignificant.

Release of forest land for development of pilgrim centres

3422. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to release forest land for the development of pilgrim centres which are located in forest areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, has diverted about 140 hectares of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the last three years and the current year for development of pilgrim centres in various States, as per the details given in the enclosed Statement.